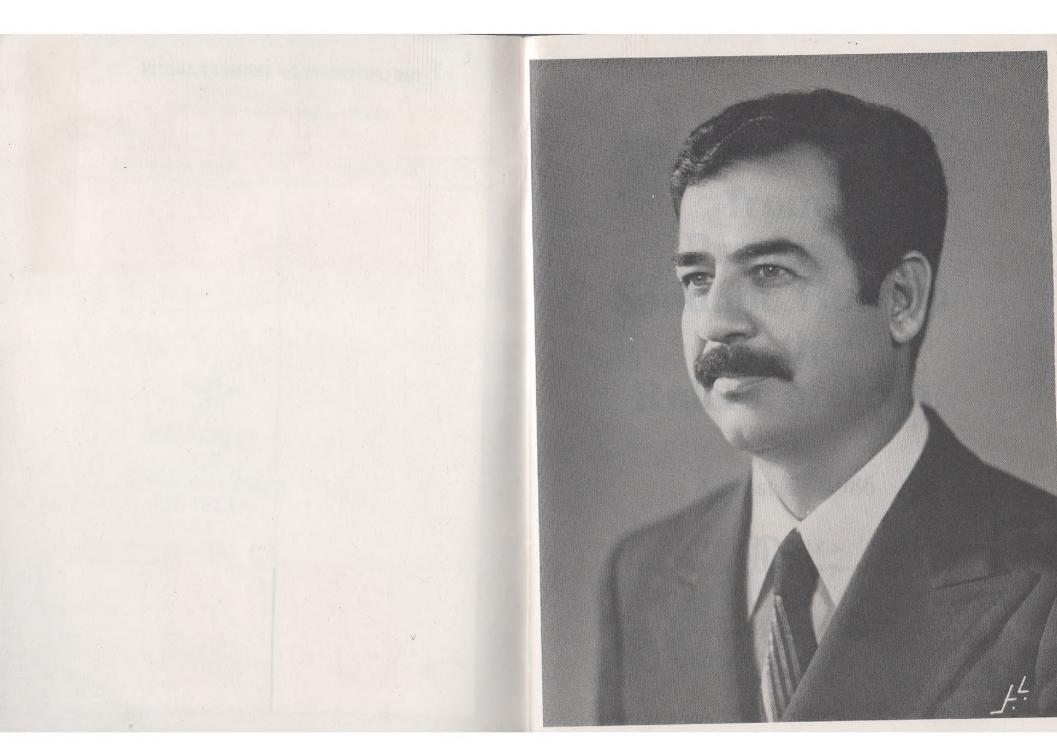
## An Open Letter from President Saddam Hussein to the Rulers of Iran

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In those letters, I dealt with your out-moded

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"We hurl Truth at Falsehood, until Truth shall triumph and Falsehood be no more"

On previous occasions, I addressed my letters to the peoples of Iran explaining the circumstances of the war and its developments and how you have been driving your people to the death inferno to no avail not to mention that you have been responsible for this war ever since it started.

In those letters, I dealt with your out-moded slogan that time was on your side. So you betted on prolonging the war imagining that, with the passage of time, the people of Iraq would be exhausted and their economy would collapse. I made accurate comparisons between all aspects of strategy related to Iraq, its potentialities, the nature and level of its government, its position and its Arab and international relations, and the same aspects related to

Iran. I came out with definite conclusions namely, that Iraq would stand fast against your frustrated hopes which would be dashed and your void heads would be trampled by men who believe in God, their country and their honour, their freedom and the rights of their people. In all that, I proceeded from a profound concern to keep the Iranian peoples and those of the region away from the bloody abyss to which you have been driving your peoples. I expressly said that you would lose and that you would get nothing but shame now and in the hereafter. My letters, in one way or another, have made the deceived see with their own eyes and minds some important facts of life and the dangerous path you have chosen for them. Moreover, we have proved to our people, to your peoples and to those of the whole world as well as to history that we seek peace not war, while we are prepared and able to crush all attempts and intentions of aggression with our naked swords until just and honourable peace is realised. But what happened afterwards?

The soundness of all the concepts, expectations, and conclusions which figured in our previous letters has been confirmed.

It has become obvious that our economy has not collapsed. The economic siege failed when many sources and outlets opened up for our economy, thanks to the efforts and determination of our great people, the good members of our glorious nation, and the friends of Iraq on the international level.

Your slogan of prolonging the war and making use of the time factor has failed. So you have become of the opinion that extending the war for such a long time is a big-power plot while it was you, by your own will, who refused to end the war. It is you who still insist on it and it is you, in the first place, who are responsible for it and not the big-powers, regardless of the intentions and schemes of the big-powers.

This slogan of yours has thus failed as was the case with your slogan of laying economic siege to Iraq - in collaboration with your friends, the rulers of Syria - which you thought would bring about what you failed to achieve in all your military attempts of aggression against our borders and territory. After the battles of Muhammara (1982), we warned you not to be possessed by conceit over the recovery of your territory which we had controlled for two years under well-known circumstances.

We told you if you were so carried away by the circumstances of the battles of Muhammara that you imagined that Iraq's territory could be easily conquered, you were deluded and would commit yet another mistake about the true nature of the Iraqis and their great principles.

However, you committed another mistake when conceit blinded your eyes and minds and trapped you in its vicious circle. You continued your aggression without learning any lesson from the

battles of East of Basra, in which the people of Iraq triumphed and your hopeless legions were crushed. Then you launched two offensives in the East of Meisan sector. After your failure and defeat, you moved on to all other sectors of the battlefront to try your bad luck.

In each one of those offensives, the Zionist media, as well as the media and intelligence services of the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation, used to raise your hopes of success after mobilising all their direct and indirect means in a desperate and naked attempts to sap the morale of the Iraqis. Upon each of these offensives, which amounted to more than twenty - two major ones, you and your allies boastfully talked about deploying millions of soldiers. But as soon as the battles started the truth was revealed exposing your weakness, lies, and humbug and showing that your attacking troops numbered only tens of thousands whom the Iraqis - with the help of God and their own strength and capability - managed to tear apart with clear superiority on all levels

and in all fields.

Before each of those abortive attempts you promised the Iranians that it would be your final and decisive offensive, and we told you that we, in the name of the Iraqis, challenge you to make it your final and decisive attempt. At the same time we warned the Iranian peoples that you were lying to them, and that you merely intended to drive more of your deluded and deceived people to the death inferno after you had found they declined your orders and refused to got to the battlefield.

We have already told you on so many occasions that you rely on quackery and falsehood<sup>(1)</sup>while we,

If Khomeini lacks the prerequisites of pilgrimage, how can he meet the requirements of Wilnyat al-Faqih and the Imamate of the Muslims?

<sup>(1)</sup> Khomeini should be asked: "Why do you refrain from performing Al-Haj (the Pilgrimage) and Al-Umra (the minor Pilgrimage). And why do you prevent all Iran's Ayatollahs from performing them? Is it for political reasons? Or is it because you have another attitude towards pilgrimage similar to your attitudes towards the Holy Quran, the Revelation and the good pioneers of Islam?"

in promise and talk, rely on truth and facts and that we and our people are in the right and with justice. Therefore, with the passage of time, your quackery will be exposed and your peoples will sooner or later find out the truth and shall choose the path of justice and right, leaving you to stray in your delusion. You will then realise how terrible your fate is, when you will have no chance for retreat. Thus, you will be wanted by your own peoples and by the Justice of God, His Messenger and followers. And this day has come.

Now you have reached this stage, where you are overwhelmed by bitter disappointment and beset by danger. You have started to curse the slogan of a lengthy war which you have raised, as you were hit by a catastrophe in all economic, political, popular, military and other fields.

I say you dismissed as a big-power slogan the theme of a lengthy war which you yourselves had raised and replaced it with another one that shortened time and called for a year of decisive

settlement for the war in accordance with your own territorial ambitions and delusions, not with right and justice. You have again been frustrated and are now as deluded as ever before.

We know that this slogan of yours, formulated at this time and in this manner, is only a bad defensive slogan and not a capable daring one, though it assumes the form of attack and aggression. It is a hopeless slogan, the last convulsion of a dying man, and not an act of a sound mind and a balanced will. It is a slogan for actual suicide, typical of those desperate wreckless men who resort to it to escape blame, regardless of consequences.

I once again say that your slogan is one of suicide and nothing else, because you know that all the elements and facts of strategy still confirm our superiority on the military, popular, political, economic and other levels. Nothing essential has occurred basically to change this fact. We are aware of your failure to achieve the superiority you wish to

have over us, even in the field of military capabilities.

You raised this slogan after you had failed to achieve more than what you did in the Fao Triangle, where you trapped yourselves and sustained losses of scores of thousands of soldiers killed and more than a hundred thousand wounded - some of which losses are Known to all, some may not be known but to a few. This has badly reflected on your ability to maintain the will to fight and to mobilise your frustrated people along the path of the death inferno.

After certain political, economic and military changes, you started to say, "We should fight while we are still strong" before these changes bring you to your knees. You made such statements after our courageous Air Force had stepped up their blows on your vital economic installations, and the price of oil had fallen so low that your hard currency was not enough to provide living for your people or to provide the minimum military requirements to

maintain the momentum of aggression. It was also made after the Iranian opposition to the war gained strength, and after we had adopted a new method for effective defence whose results confused your forces and inflicted further losses on them, especially in the successful battles fought by our courageous soldiers in the First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Corps. After this, instead of opting for peace so that your people may enjoy the riches of your country and the blessings of peace, you started to make such declarations. Hence your hopeless slogan to settle the war this year militarily.

Commenting on this new miserable slogan, we say to you that it will foil and boomerang against you. In so saying, we proceed from the profound confidence that God is with us and from our trust in Iraq's great people and its noble stance in defence of its hallowed possessions. We say this in order that the peoples of Iran and the world shall remember history shall record our exploits. Further, we say this in the hope of reducing the disasters of Iran and

stemming the rivers of blood.

You and all those who support you will emerge from your evil aggressions this year defeated and accursed, and the result shall be in favour of the Iraqis and shall confirm the principles of the Arab nation and preserve its security and honour if you really speak the truth this time in making this the final year of the war, after your many lies so far. The Iraqis will all reiterate against your slogan their own immortal cry: "Let this be a decisive year on your feeble heads!"

Therefore, you should think it over before you drive fresh hundreds of thousands of Iranians to death. You should opt for the honourable path of peace instead of war, because the latter has only led to your definite destruction.

When, on behalf of the great people of Iraq and its brave army, we stress that you will be defeated as was the case on previous occasions, we rely on two basic facts which are the basis of all others.

The first is that we are superior to you when we compare the elements of our strategy with their counterparts on your side. We are more capable of and more effective in using and orienting these factors in a course of interaction towards ultimate victory in the conflict of powers and wills between the two partirs. For, chaos is rampant in your country and among the conflicting groups from the leadership down to the lowest levels. There is conflict between designations and religious centres, between these designations and power centres, between Khomeini Guards and the Army and between you and the national opposition for us. Regardless of any interpretations about the degree and nature of superiority when we compare elements of strategy in Iraq with those in Iran, we find that the elements of strategy will not be so effective as to turn matters on the strategic level in favour of this party or that, unless they are used in an effective manner involving interaction towards the right objectives. Their mere availability in the field of conflict is not enough.

Therefore, the numerical superiority of your people which distinguishes it from ours becomes a heavy burden to you when it becomes a source of conceit for you, as has been the case in all former battles.

Indeed, this numerical superiority has become a burden to you, now that a great number of your people have become aware of the fact and chosen not to go on with your war of aggression. Moreover, it has become a burden to you, as your resources have dwindled and your economy collapsed in such a manner that you are unable to support your people under the present conditions.

In the light of these facts and their final outcome, superiority in strategic terms has been in our favour as testified by the last six years of war. Any partial success scored here or there - even if it led to a limited gain in territory or to the occupation of this village or that small township on the border - will not change or reverse this fact at all. If

superiority on the strategic level is in Iraq's favour, as it is indeed, it will not change by minor adverse tactical results in this field or that.

What confirms this truth as evidenced by all experiences of conflict among nations, peoples and powers is that you, since July 1982 have controlled a few kilometres of territory here and there, and occupied under well-known circumstances the Fao Triangle. But what happened later?

As soon as we took the necessary measures along with the proper timing, God enabled us to recover a great part of those territories just after the battles of Fao for which you, and all our enemies and deluded people, made such a ballyhoo.

Indeed, we managed to chase, crush and take prisoner thousands of your troops even in the basin of Mehran in the recent battle about which you made yet another ballyhoo. We achieved all this in medium-sized battles and with minor sacrifices compared with the smallest offensive you launched against us for which you spent months in preparation and planning.

Any offensive you may launch in future - even if it enables you to seize a few metres of land here or a village there - will not further your malicious expansionist slogan which calls for settling the war militarily this year, and you will face utter failure. What will you say then to your peoples and to your army when the new catastrophe befalls you? What solutions will you devise then? It is the wise man who does not use up all his potential so he can draw on it when he faces unforeseen situations and probabilities. But here you are trying once again to gamble with all your potential. Have you thought what state you will be in when the remainder of this strength has been crushed?

We leave the answer to the future, to history and to the coming battles. For the past four years, between July 1982 and July 1986, you staged more

than 22 big offensives, using more and better troops and equipment than what you have now without settling the conflict militarily in your favour. Therefore, how and why do you believe that a lesser level of mobilisation and weaponry would make you achieve what you have failed to achieve in six years of war and after more than 22 unsuccessful major offensives across the border?

The second basic fact in our superiority over you on the strategic level is that our great people, in its daring and defensive battle against your aggression is simply defending its land, its hallowed possessions and its honour, together with the principles and honour of the Arab nation. Our people is aware that their representatives tried every means to realise peace but there remained no alternative to protect these sacred things other than putting up a brave fight in resisting your aggression. Hence, any failure on your part to realise this and all other slogans of aggression will lead to your destruction

and eventually to your end, while our men compete with each other to fight you in a battle where truth will overcome falsehood, God willing. They learn lessons from every minor or major battle to improve their performance and to be properly prepared against any surprise attack. On the other hand, Iraqi women, each from her position, on the farm, at home and at office work do their best, inspired by divine guidance and national responsibility to undertake their educational and practical role in replacing the men who are at the battlefronts to fight you, until God allows His final clear victory; which is unquestionably coming. Every woman will say to her husband, or brother: "The mothers of cowards shall ever be miserable! Go forth and fight the enemy, whom you shall conquer!" Every mother will say to her son: "I never gave you suck if you let the aggressors cut off your mother's breast. And they will certainly cut off, her breast if you do not bravely fight!"

You, rulers of Iran, are fully aware that no one of us wishes to see his mother's breast cut off. You realise that we are such type of men that even if we supposed that one day you caught us unawares till you reached - God forbid - the eastern outskirts of Baghdad, we, motivated by pride, dignity and honour, will be to repulse and drive you out of our country, in utter defeat.

Imagine your delusion and disappointment if you have based your hopes on the possibility of achieving your goals of aggression by merely seizing this village or that inch of land or that township by the border.

Any inch you seize from Iraq's territory will be wrested out of your eyes, no matter how long the war may last, after we shatter your wicked dreams. We are absolutely sure that the war is drawing to an end because we, courageous Iraqis, backed by honourable Muslims and Arabs will foil all your malicious attempts. Your evil attempts will turn

against you and the devils' den which you have built on the torn bodies of the Iranians will collapse. Your failure will be a failure for you and a victory for us in strategic terms, because your slogan is an expansionist one aiming at overrunning Iraq and building an expansionist empire, while ours aims at maintaining our sovereignty, hallowed possessions and free options, and nothing more. Thus, in order not to miss a chance to call for peace as it has always been the case with our policy, we remind you, now that you are rushing headlong towards destruction, that the only way to save what could be saved is the way of peace and nothing else. The way of peace can only be realised in an honourable manner in accordance with the following:

- 1. Full, total and unconditional withdrawal to the internationally recognised borders.
- 2. A total and full exchange of prisoners of war.
- 3. Signing a peace and non-aggression agreement between the two countries.

- 4. Non-interference in the internal affairs and respect of each party's options by the other.
- 5. That both Iraq and Iran should be positive elements in realising stability and security in the whole region and, in particular, the region of the Arab Gulf.

Peace be upon him who followeth the right path. God is great, and shame upon the despicables.

## Saddam Hussein

August 2, 1986

رسالة مفتوحة من السيد الرئيس القائد صدام حسين الى حكام ايران (٢ آب ١٩٨٦)

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